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Draft country programme document***

Malaysia

Summary

The Executive Director presents the draft country programme document for Malaysia for discussion and comments. The Executive Board is requested to approve the aggregate indicative budget of $1,500,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $1,500,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2005 to 2007.

* Submission of the present document was delayed by necessary consultations with the UNICEF country office.

** E/ICEF/2004/8.

*** In accordance with Executive Board decision 2002/4 (E/ICEF/2002/8), the present document will be revised and posted on the UNICEF web site in October 2004, together with the summary results matrix. It will then be approved by the Executive Board at its first regular session of 2005.

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Basic data (2002 unless otherwise stated)	
Child population (millions, under 18 years)	9.3
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	8
Underweight (%, moderate and severe, 2001)	12
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births, 2000)	41
Primary school enrolment (% net, male/female, 2000)	98/99
Primary school children reaching grade 5 (%, 1996)	99
Use of improved drinking water sources (%)	
Adult HIV prevalence rate (%, 2001)	0.4
Child work (%, children 5-14 year-olds)	
GNI per capita (US$)	3,540
One-year-olds immunized against DPT3 (%)	96
One-year-olds immunized against measles (%)	92

The situation of children and women

1. Malaysia has reached a point in development where it would not normally qualify for UNICEF programme cooperation. However, some important issues remain for children and young people that will benefit from continued cooperation. During the next country programme, institutional arrangements for a post-UNICEF presence in Malaysia will need to be developed.

2. Children make up 33 per cent of Malaysia's population of 25 million. The country is ranked 58 on the Human Development Index, with per capita income comparable to countries that are about to join the European Union. The proportion of the population living under US$1 per day declined from 7.5 per cent in 1997 to 5.1 per cent in 2002.

3. Malaysia has a strong tradition of public investment in social services, which has engendered considerable progress in health and education. The under-five mortality rate fell from 21 to 8 per 1,000 live births between 1990 and 2001, a level comparable with high-income countries. Moreover, communicable diseases are no longer an important factor in child deaths. Instead, an increasing proportion of those deaths are due to injuries and accidents, with injuries being a leading cause. According to the Malaysian Vital Statistics Bulletin, in 2001 road traffic accidents alone killed 1,232 children, including 128 children under five.

4. Almost all children are enrolled in primary school. Girls and boys enjoy equal educational opportunities, with slightly more girls than boys enrolled in secondary and tertiary education. However, net secondary school enrolment for both girls and boys was only 89 per cent, according to Government data, a figure that points to a significant number of young people being left behind, unable to profit from and contribute to the country's progress. This drop-off in enrolment is clearly linked to other threats faced by adolescents that are discussed below.

5. Malaysia has ratified several key treaties protecting children's rights. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women were ratified in 1995, but the initial report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child has yet to be submitted. Malaysia also

ratified the International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions 138, in 1997, and 182, in 2000, and in 2002 signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

6. Child abuse is increasing, although it is difficult to make an accurate determination of its prevalence. A Forum on Caring for Children of Malaysia, held in 1995, noted a twelve-fold increase in reported cases of child abuse in Peninsular Malaysia from 1981 to 1991, when the number of cases reached 970.

7. Malaysia has created an enabling environment for children, which includes statutory institutions, a dedicated non-governmental organization (NGO) coalition, and an increasingly aware public. All of them contribute to innovative approaches to combat child abuse. The 2001 Child Act consolidated three previous laws on child protection and juvenile justice and strengthened institutions established in 1991 for child protection under the Social Welfare Department.

8. Nevertheless, more attention needs to be paid to protecting the rights and well-being of adolescents. Many either do not enrol in, or finish, secondary school, and this issue is linked with Government concerns over rising rates of HIV/AIDS infection and drug use among young people. Both concerns were noted in Malaysia's statement to the 6th East Asia and Pacific Ministerial Consultation on Children in 2003. Malaysia's statement to the United Nations Special Session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS in 2001 also highlighted the fact that the Government is prioritizing prevention programmes for the young, as 80 per cent of HIV infections occur among the 20-35 age group.

9. According to Ministry of Health data, the adult HIV prevalence rate in 2001 was 0.4 per cent, and by June 2003, the total reported HIV infections were 54,914. Other calculations are higher. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates the number of people infected with HIV to be between 120,000 and 200,000, and when non-reported cases are factored in, the Ministry of Health estimates the number to be around 90,000. In 2002, 76 per cent of reported new infections occurred among drug users, who according to the Home Ministry numbered nearly 32,000 people.

10. Although the epidemic is still concentrated mainly among those adopting high-risk behaviours and in vulnerable situations, it has begun to spread to the mainstream population. Though absolute numbers are still small, they still show a steep rise in infections among heterosexuals and women. In 2002, a reported 1,218 cases of HIV infection among heterosexuals represented an increase of 46 per cent over the number of cases in 2001. Moreover, HIV infections in women, comprising 1 per cent of all infections in 1990, rose to 9 per cent in 2002, according to Government statistics. UNAIDS estimates that by end of 2001, AIDS had orphaned 14,000 children.

11. Another issue affecting adolescents is their lack of voice in matters that concern them. In a 2001 opinion survey of children and adolescents 9 to 17 years old in East Asia and the Pacific entitled, "Speaking Out", less than half of Malaysia's respondents said they felt their opinions were highly valued in their home. A similar proportion said their opinions were ignored in community matters affecting young people. The survey indicated that there is less attention paid to children's views in Malaysia than elsewhere in the region.

12. Malaysia has a high proportion of refugees and the displaced. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, displaced persons (the definition

includes legal and illegal immigrants, foreign-born workers and refugees) comprise around 10 per cent of the population. Only a minority of them are officially recognized as refugees. Many foreign-born people in Malaysia are from Indonesia and Myanmar, and a high proportion of them are in the country unofficially, without an automatic entitlement to public services.

Key results and lessons learned from previous cooperation, 1999-2003

Key results achieved

13. Malaysia has met all the Millennium Development Goals, with the exception of reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS. UNICEF has advocated making this rich experience in achieving the Goals available to other developing countries. A joint project by the United Nations country team and the Government of Malaysia is currently under way to document the key factors and generic lessons to be learned from Malaysia's successes in poverty reduction, basic education, gender equality and women's empowerment, maternal health, and child mortality reduction. The document will be completed by late 2004.

14. This advocacy is also leading to a broadening of the Government's technical cooperation programme (TCDC) to provide support to countries in the region in primary health care and primary education. The Ministry of Health and UNICEF will collaborate in an initial TCDC pilot in maternal health and in sanitation.

15. Many efforts have supported information exchange. At the Organization of the Islamic Conference Summit, held in Malaysia in 2003, UNICEF and the Government shared key information with participants, and UNICEF presented a report demonstrating Malaysia's relative strengths in girls' education, maternal health and reduction of infant mortality.

16. In two study tours during 2002-2003, UNICEF also enabled two Ministries to learn from other countries in their experiences with the rehabilitation of children with special needs and with early childhood education. The Ministry of Health used the information to improve the capacity of rehabilitation staff working with children with disabilities. Similarly, using information from their study tour, the Ministry of Rural Development created new training modules in early childhood education and used its resources to train all teachers in this field.

17. Another important information tool produced in 2003 was the National Survey on Sexual Abuse among Adolescent Students. The survey, which included 32,000 respondents, was organized by the Ministry of National Unity and Social Development, two NGOs, the HELP Institute Centre for Psychology and UNICEF. Malaysia's first nationwide study on the issue, which is a widespread concern in the region, the survey will provide baseline data and serve as a framework for policy-making and service provision by NGOs and the Government.

18. Other surveys conducted, on HIV/AIDS, showed that out-of-school young people are less knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS and are more inclined to engage in risky behaviour than their school-going peers. Using results from the surveys, UNICEF successfully advocated for extending the Healthy Lifestyles without HIV/AIDS for Youth (ProStar) project for young people in school to those out of school. UNICEF is also supporting the Government in piloting a model for out-of-

school young people that features training in life skills and entrepreneur skills, peer outreach programmes, and youth participation. Launched in two states, the model is expected to be replicated in additional states with funding from the Government and others.

Lessons learned

19. The 2002-2004 country programme attempted to achieve results on a broad range of project initiatives while at the same time orienting activities towards setting up a successor entity. This was an ambitious goal, given the fact that UNICEF has much to learn about how to make the transition to carrying out advocacy, partnerships and fund-raising after programme support ends. Only one professional post was established in the office to cover both sets of activities, and this was not enough to carry out the intensive partnership-building necessary. Therefore, the proposed country programme will focus on a few strategic initiatives aiming for highly visible outcomes regarding child rights issues, and it will be better staffed.

20. An assessment of the ProStar HIV/AIDS project conducted by UNICEF regional staff underscored the importance of introducing targeted prevention approaches to help those young people who are, or in the future could be, engaged in high-risk behaviours. This is very relevant to the Malaysian context, as the epidemic is still primarily confined to high-risk behaviour groups. Therefore, arrangements are being made at the project planning stage to obtain adequate resources for advocacy and interventions.

The country programme, 2005-2007

Summary budget table

	(In thousands of United States dollars)		
Programme	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Total*
Youth development and participation	300	500	800
Protection of children from injuries and abuse	300	500	800
Strengthening the Malaysian movement for children	300	300	600
Cross-sectoral costs	600	200	800
Total	**1 500**	**1 500**	**3 000**

Preparation process

21. The decision to seek an extension of the Malaysia-UNICEF programme of cooperation was taken in August 2003. The preparation process began following discussions about modalities with the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) of the Department of the Prime Minister. The Country Programme Strategy paper was distributed to all key Ministries by the EPU, and a strategy meeting, organized by the EPU and attended by Government Ministries, endorsed the direction and main components of the proposed programme.

Goals, key results and strategies

22. Because this is the last programme of cooperation with Malaysia, its overall goal is to develop innovative models to cope with emerging threats to the survival, development, protection and participation of children while at the same time ensuring a well-managed transition to a successor entity, ultimately leading to the establishment of a National Committee.

23. Given the impediments to transition encountered in the last programme cycle, the new programme will limit programming interventions to a few key child rights priorities. The programme will help to build national capacity to reduce marginalization and abuse of children, enhance the life skills of young people, particularly to prevent HIV infection, and promote the rights of all children.

24. Recognizing the relatively large capacity of the Government of Malaysia, and of Malaysian society as a whole, to support the full realization of children's rights, UNICEF inputs will continue to focus on advocacy and technical cooperation for policy and institutional development and formulation of a few innovative models for potential replication by the Government. Service delivery will continue to be a responsibility of the Government and its private and civil society partners. Key results to be achieved through the programme by 2007 are the following:

(a) In the states of Kedah, Pahang and Sarawak, 60 per cent of out-of-school young people will have acquired knowledge and skills to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections and drug use, and state capacity to develop necessary psychosocial competencies will be increased;

(b) In the states of Kedah, Pahang and Sarawak, 80 per cent of secondary-school clubs (described in "Programme components" below) will have annual plans of activities, and regular teacher-student consultations, with clear plans for nationwide application;

(c) Nationwide, 70 per cent of families will have received information leading to reduction in the incidence of accidents and injuries;

(d) In two project implementation districts, 70 per cent of families will have received information and education leading to reduction in the incidence of child abuse;

(e) In two project implementation districts, 24 Child Activity Centres will have operational education, monitoring, counselling and enforcement systems to combat child abuse;

(f) A transition entity will have been operational for at least six months, in order to guarantee succession on closure of the UNICEF country office;

(g) At least three TCDC events will have disseminated information about Malaysia's success in child survival and development.

Relationship to national priorities and the UNDAF

25. The country programme deals with key emerging issues while building a transition entity for channelling Malaysia's expertise and resources into continued protection and caring of children. The planned interventions and intended outcomes are consistent with the concept of building a caring society — a key principle in the Malaysia Vision 2020. They are also linked to some main thrusts of the Eighth

Malaysia Plan 2001-2005, which include: provision of adequate and quality social services that are accessible to all, especially the lower-income groups, the disadvantaged and those with special needs; an increase in enrolment rates at the secondary level; developing the capacity of young people to promote healthy life styles and to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS, smoking and drug use; and the fostering of harmony and unity in a multi-ethnic society.

26. Since the CCA/UNDAF process does not apply to the Malaysian context, UNICEF uses the United Nations country team as the main mechanism for working with other United Nations agencies towards achieving the goals of the United Nations system in Malaysia.

Relationship to international priorities

27. The Programme will focus on the few goals and targets of Millennium Agenda yet to be achieved, including the Millennium Development Goals, which also overlap with the priorities of *A World Fit for Children*, UNICEF's medium-term strategic plan, and the Bali Consensus of the 6th East Asia and Pacific Ministerial Consultation on Children. These key elements are HIV/AIDS, youth development, protection of children from abuse, and prevention of child accidents and injury, an emerging priority in the East Asia and Pacific region. Advocacy will support the establishment of a successor entity for child rights protection in the country as well as the *World Fit for Children* and Millennium goal of promoting global partnerships for development.

Programme components

Youth Development and Participation

28. This programme will address issues relating to drop-out rates in secondary school, the risks of HIV/AIDS and drug use, and an increasing sense of dissatisfaction expressed by young people. Key factors to receive attention are a) the perception among a substantial number of young people that their opinions do not receive adequate attention; and b) the low level of knowledge and psychosocial skills relating to prevention of HIV/AIDS.

29. The Youth-Friendly Schools project will help secondary-school administrators, teachers and parents create a more youth-friendly teaching and learning environment through several means: increased responsiveness to young people's needs on the part of the administration and teachers; the creation of more opportunities for students to develop a sense of unity and harmony, self-esteem, and leadership; and co-curricular activities organized by young people for their protection and development. The main mechanism will be enhancement of existing school clubs or student councils to increase student participation, enabling students to contribute ideas for improving the school environment. Concurrently, students will be encouraged in the clubs or councils to develop positive values, including ethnic harmony, in and out of school; healthy lifestyles; protection of the environment; and positive student-teacher relationships. UNICEF will provide funds for developing an appropriate model, technical assistance, and the adaptation of international good practices in this area to the Malaysia context.

30. The HIV/AIDS prevention for Out-of-School Young People project will build on and improve the quality of the prevention activities implemented through the current ProStar project, and will provide young people with knowledge and psychosocial skills to protect themselves and their peers from HIV/AIDS and drug use. This will be accomplished by several means: catalysing public discussion on HIV/AIDS prevention, stigmatization, and care for those (especially children) affected by AIDS; the promotion of non-discrimination through policy and media advocacy, including technical assistance with the 'With hope and help' advocacy initiative to support compassion and support for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS; providing lifeskills-based HIV/AIDS education using peer education methods; and developing pilot interventions for high-risk behaviour groups such as drug users and commercial sex workers and their children, including specific prevention strategies and services. UNICEF assistance will focus on several aspects: advocacy for policies creating an enabling environment for young people, through which they can contribute to and co-own the initiative; capacity-building in social research and behaviour surveillance; capacity-building of local human resources in lifeskills and psychosocial competencies as well as in monitoring and evaluation of life skills-based training; providing best-practice examples of materials and curricula from other programmes in the region.

31. The two projects will be implemented as models in the states of Kedah, Pahang and Sarawak, representing Peninsular and East Malaysia. If more other resources funds become available, the models will be replicated in two additional states. The ultimate goal is for the models to be replicated in all states, under Government or NGO funding and management. The projects will be implemented by the Ministries of Education and Health as well as state governments, in collaboration with parent-teacher associations, NGOs, the Malaysian AIDS Council, local universities, the corporate sector, United Nations agencies and young people.

Protection of Children from Injuries and Abuse

32. This programme will address these two threats to children, which persist despite Malaysia's development successes. Several East Asian countries have undertaken accident and injury surveys in the past year, and a major conference on the subject is taking place in Bangkok in April 2004. The conference will cover protection of children from death and disability due to a wide variety of accidents, including drowning, injuries from road traffic and home-based accidents. Malaysia's experience in preventing road accidents and protecting children from major injury can serve as an example for other countries in the region dealing with this issue. The findings of a planned national survey on childhood accidents and injuries should provide a clearer understanding of the causes and circumstances of accident-related morbidity and mortality, and help with the design and implementation of preventive programmes.

33. The Prevention of Child Abuse project, using the existing institutional infrastructure of Child Protection Teams and Child Activity Centres, will develop a model for establishing a system of prevention, monitoring and counselling for combating child abuse, for potential replication by Government. The project partners will be the Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of National Unity and Social Development, local governments, and the NGO Coalition for Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, led by the organization PS The Children.

34. The interventions will include raising awareness about child abuse and strategies for prevention among communities covered by the Child Activity Centres; training of Centre staff and volunteers on prevention education, and development of abuse-monitoring mechanism; empowering children served by the Centres in their own protection and reporting; capacity-building of relevant local government and national Government officials, Child Protection Teams, and staff of the NGO Coalition on programming for child sexual abuse; monitoring and evaluation; and research. The project will also mobilize mass media to increase public awareness.

35. UNICEF will provide funds to develop the model, focusing on providing technical assistance for the following areas: training of staff and volunteers; research, monitoring and evaluation; and international networking for sharing of knowledge on global best practices in the prevention of child abuse.

36. UNICEF will support Malaysia in professional and programme exchange with other countries active in PMCT in the region. UNICEF will also assist the Government in assessing the vulnerability of children to HIV/AIDS and in carrying out response analysis.

Strengthening the Malaysian Movement for Children

37. This programme will build a strong constituency of intellectual, moral and financial support from Malaysian society to ensure a viable and lasting UNICEF entity after 2007, using opportunities generated by Malaysia's progress in meeting the commitments of the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals. The programme will also enable other developing countries to share experiences and learn from Malaysia's successes in basic social service policy and programme delivery.

38. The UNICEF Successor Entity project aims to establish a successor entity committed to protecting rights of children — in Malaysia and throughout the world — through creative mobilization of the Malaysian people's commitment to children as well as the leadership of the Government, religious and business groups and civil society. The successor entity will no longer be funded by UNICEF after 2007 but will remain within the broader UNICEF family in terms of mandate, mission and objectives. The project will use market research, brainstorming sessions, national consultations, experience-exchange visits to successful National Committees, public information campaigns, goodwill ambassadors, round tables with key leaders and professionals, and policy advocacy initiatives to develop a mandate, structure and set of operational procedures for the entity. The project will be coordinated by the EPU of the Office of the Prime Minister. UNICEF will also work closely with other key Ministries, religious leaders, Malaysian leaders and experts, the corporate sector, and young people dedicated to protecting child rights.

39. The TCDC project will support the expansion of the Government's current initiative to include programmes on basic social service delivery, particularly programmes involving maternal and child health, water and sanitation, and basic education. The project will be implemented by the EPU of the Office of the Prime Minister in close collaboration with Ministries of Health and Education and selected universities and institutes studying development. UNICEF will provide technical assistance to conduct research, develop monographs, case studies, training modules and web materials, and to organize experience-exchange visits.

40. **Cross-sectoral costs** will cover the expenses of a Programme Officer to ensure not only that programmes can be implemented smoothly but also that lessons from the programmes are culled and communicated. Some office expenses will also be paid from this funding.

Major partnerships

41. UNICEF will work closely with the Government at federal and state levels on policy development and programme implementation. UNICEF will continue to work closely with other United Nations agencies in the United Nations country team, especially with UNDP on the TCDC project and WHO on HIV/AIDS, child accidents and injuries. The National NGO Coalition for Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse will be a key partner in prevention of child abuse. Teachers, youth leaders, in-school and out-of-school young people will be important partners in implementing young people's participation initiatives in secondary schools and in promoting healthy lifestyles. The programme will also work in partnership with religious leaders, NGOs, the corporate sector, and professional organizations for advocacy and public education, in prevention of accident and injury, child abuse, and the establishment of a successor entity to UNICEF. Media will be an important ally for advocacy and public awareness-raising for all aspects of the programme. Child Protection Teams, staff and volunteers in Child Activity Centres, children, parents and community groups are key partners in prevention of child abuse and injury. The UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office and Malaysian universities and research institutions will assist in providing technical assistance in areas of TCDC, HIV/AIDS, research, and monitoring and evaluation.

42. UNICEF will consult with the Government to seek innovative funding opportunities, including within the country, that can augment the country programme budget as well as position the successor entity for its future. These opportunities may include: matching contributions from the Government; corporate or individual in-kind and financial contributions; as well as fund-raising from the general public, including marketing and sales of UNICEF cards and products.

Monitoring, evaluation and programme management

43. The country programme results framework will be the basis for monitoring progress and planning evaluation of the country programme. An Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for 2005-2007 will include monitoring methods, an evaluation plan, and suggested studies. The Mid-Term Review will be held in mid-2006. The HIV/AIDS prevention project will be evaluated in 2005 to learn from three years of implementation. A summary evaluation will be undertaken in 2007, to consolidate learning from the programme for Malaysia.

44. The key results indicators include: percentage of out-of-school young people with knowledge and psychosocial skills for HIV/AIDS prevention; percentage of secondary schools with operational student councils; incidence of accidents and injuries in project districts; the number of Child Activity Centres that have activities for combating child abuse; and funds raised by the UNICEF successor agency as a ratio to the annual regular resources budget.

45. The EPU of the Department of the Prime Minister will coordinate the preparation of annual project plans and the organization of periodic reviews, including mid-term and end-of-cycle reviews, with technical assistance from

UNICEF. Designated counterpart Ministries will implement and monitor projects based on the annual project plans, in collaboration with state governments and NGOs.

46. UNICEF Malaysia's attempts to build a successor entity in the 2002-2004 programme cycle were critically hampered by lack of human resources and insufficient experience in the process. To support the new country programme, the following key staff members have been appointed to the office: (a) an accredited Representative, responsible for overall programme and office management; (b) an international Programme Officer to support programme management, advocacy and documentation; and (c) a national Communication Officer to oversee key activities in information, education and communication.

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Draft country programme document**

Philippines

Summary

The Executive Director presents the draft country programme document for the Philippines for discussion and comments. The Executive Board is requested to approve the aggregate indicative budget of $11,570,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $32,000,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2005 to 2009.

* E/ICEF/2004/8.

** In accordance with Executive Board decision 2002/4 (E/ICEF/2002/8), the present document will be revised and posted on the UNICEF web site in October 2004, together with the summary results matrix. It will then be approved by the Executive Board at its first regular session of 2005.

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Basic data *(2002 unless otherwise stated)*	
Child population (millions, under 18 years)	33.9
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	38
Underweight (% moderate and severe, 1996)	28
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births, 2000)	200
Primary school enrolment (% net, male/female, 2000)	92/93
Primary school children reaching grade 5 (%, 1999)	89
Use of improved drinking water sources (%, 2000)	86
Adult HIV prevalence rate (%, 2001)	<0.1
Child work (%, children 5-14 years old, 2000)	11
GNI per capita (US$)	1 020
One-year-olds immunized against DPT3 (%)	70
One-year-olds immunized against measles (%)	73

The situation of children and women

1. The Government continues to be very committed to promoting the rights of children, including through major laws, such as the law on early childhood care and development, and through the activities of the Council for the Welfare of Children and its member agencies. New legal instruments have been put in place for the protection of children, including a Juvenile Justice Bill, which among other provisions raises the age of criminal liability from 9 to 12 and emphasizes prevention of juvenile offences, and the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act. However, while the legal frameworks are largely in place in support of the rights of children and women, implementation is mostly weak.

2. The second report of the Philippines to the Committee on the Rights of the Child was submitted in 2003 but has not yet been reviewed. The third report is due in 2005.

3. In parts of the country, children continue to be affected by localized conflict between the national army and insurgents, with an estimated 50,000 children displaced. There is, however, a positive outlook for peace negotiations with the two groups, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the New People's Army.

4. One of the main health achievements has been a reduction in the under-five mortality rate (U5MR), from the estimated 48 (per 1,000 live births) in 1998 to 40 in 2003, according to recent estimates. However, little improvement is noted in the maternal mortality ratio (MMR), which remains high due to causes that include iron deficiency anaemia, post-partum haemorrhage, hypertension and complications during delivery and abortions. The country has been regionally certified polio free since 2000. Immunization rates for diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus (DPT3) and measles, however, are no higher than 70 per cent. Malnutrition remains high, with the greatest prevalence recorded in one- to two-year-olds, largely due to improper feeding practices. Among children under five, a 2001 survey indicated stunting prevalence at 31 per cent, underweight at 31 per cent, and wasting at 6 per cent.

5. Wide disparities exist between national statistics and those of the provinces. For example, the national figure for the infant mortality rate is 29, whereas in Northern Samar it is 79. The MMR in Maguindanao is 334, compared with the national figure of 200. The U5MR in Mountain Province is 90, compared with the national figure of 38, according to Government statistics.

6. While in 2000 the country enjoyed near universal primary school enrolment, estimated to be 97 per cent of primary school-aged children, the 2002 estimate of 94 per cent indicates a deteriorating situation. The proportion of children staying in school to grade six is 63 per cent nationally, according to recent estimates, whereas in the relatively poor Maguindanao, Sulu and Cotabato provinces, it is 23 per cent, 26 per cent and 44 per cent, respectively, according to statistics of the Department of Education.

7. Natural disasters are also a cause of concern. While the risk from earthquakes is considered low, the country is severely affected by volcanic eruptions, floods and typhoons, which often cause landslides. In the last decade, 53 typhoons and 23 major floods affected the lives of over 8 million people and resulted in over 11,000 deaths.

8. The country has approximately 33 million children, who make up 43 per cent of the population. Large numbers of children require protection from abuse and exploitation. There are approximately 250,000 street children in the 22 major cities, and they are exposed to crime, drugs, physical abuse and sexual exploitation. Since many parents seek overseas employment or employment in the cities, large numbers of children live without one or both parents. Child labour is widespread, encompassing almost 4 million children aged 4 to 12 years old, around half of them toiling in hazardous labour.

9. While HIV/AIDS prevalence has been low and slow-growing, it is clear that conditions exist for a rapidly expanding problem. Low condom use, low perception of risk and unhygienic use of needles for injecting drugs are all worrisome factors. The 2002 Young Adults Fertility Survey indicated that approximately 34 per cent of sexually active youth, mostly males, have multiple partners. It also indicated that 20 per cent of males have paid for sex, and of these only 31 per cent have used a condom. Underlying these statistics are disturbing misconceptions held by youth, of whom 23 per cent believe that AIDS is curable and 60 per cent believe that they will not become infected.

Key results and lessons learned from previous cooperation, 1999-2003

Key results achieved

10. The last country programme, spanning 1999 to 2003, with a one-year extension covering 2004, introduced the concept of encompassing all elements of programme development and implementation within a child-friendly movement. The movement, which continues to be a centrepiece of Philippines-UNICEF cooperation, addresses all key issues throughout a child's life. The concept has helped to focus attention on the rights of children and place children on the development agenda in ways that extend beyond the "focus" areas — cities and provinces given the highest priority. Based on this concept, a number of initiatives were developed and pilot-tested,

especially in education and policy. Scaling-up began during the latter half of the programme cycle.

11. Many local governments are also adopting the "four gifts for children" strategy, which includes, at the local level, a development plan, an investment plan, a legal code and a report on the state of children. By December 2003, 56 out of 194 provinces and cities had adopted and implemented these local development plans for children, and 36 also enacted local codes for children. In the focus areas, almost all 24 local government units adopted and are implementing the "four gifts".

12. Education in the focus areas has shown good results. From 2000 to 2003, when enrolment rates in Government-run schools fell by 3 per cent nationally, they fell somewhat less in focus areas. Moreover, the proportion of children staying in Government-run schools until grade six is now higher in focus areas than in the nation as a whole, having risen in 2000-2003 from 55 per cent of children to 73 per cent, compared with a rise from 63 per cent to 71 per cent nationally. This is a significant achievement, considering that the focus areas are remote, have problems of conflict and violence, and encompass many disadvantaged communities. These figures indicate that the child-friendly school system and student tracking system, introduced during the most recent programme cycle, are gaining momentum. In focus areas, UNICEF resources helped to train more than 1,800 day-care workers and 1,000 primary school teachers in early childhood care and development. Furthermore, in these areas, some 3,500 schools, 41 per cent of the total, adopted the child-friendly school approach.

13. The child-friendly programme has made a considerable impact in child protection, and in this area UNICEF has played a strong advocacy role. To begin with, the programme influenced the Supreme Court to adopt new child-sensitive rules and procedures, which include the use of video-conferencing in special studios to spare children the trauma of testifying in open court. To date, 14 child-friendly studios have been established. In addition, extensive child-friendly training on rights has been completed in the justice system, and a juvenile justice training manual was published, with UNICEF assistance. Awareness about child rights was also promoted through the establishment of 45 child knowledge centres and a youth reporters bureau for television, which UNICEF has supported with training, equipment and advocacy. Also developed were child-friendly instruments for municipal and provincial *barangays* (local government entities) to help them assess their protection of all children's rights. In addition, more than 5,000 children at risk received educational assistance that included books and writing materials, with allowances given to informal education teachers and facilitators. Some 3,000 children received information on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections as well as life-skills training.

14. Several notable advances were made in child health. A Child Health 2025 Policy Framework was approved, which includes national plans for safe motherhood and adolescent and youth health and development. Also completed were technical guidelines for vitamin A and iron supplementation. The programme played a key role in activities to reverse falling immunization rates, which had declined from 73 per cent to 70 per cent between 1998 and 2003. This trend was due to a change in the procurement system made by the Government, which UNICEF helped to adopt a more reliable system. Through nationwide campaigns supported by the country programme, coverage with vitamin A supplementation rose from 83 per cent in 1998

to 93 per cent in 2003, according to the Department of Health. In 2003, following a massive salt iodization campaign, accessibility and utilization rates for iodized salt reached 90 per cent and 60 per cent, respectively. In 2002, these levels were 35 per cent and 30 per cent.

Lessons learned

15. Various studies, the mid-term evaluation and the annual programme implementation reviews have all indicated that a multisectoral, integrated approach to programme planning and implementation adopted within a child-friendly movement has rallied many actors in and outside Government to work towards improving the lives of children and women. This is especially noteworthy considering the complex decentralized environment of the Philippines and the amount of available resources.

16. A review of progress in September 2003 indicated that while the child-friendly movement is well understood and widely adopted by cities, the movement had greater impact in the provinces. This was attributed to the fact that the cities involved received relatively small financial input from the programme (compared with their own resources) and have large bureaucracies. In the future, UNICEF will work to mobilize the cities' own resources for children and work more closely with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to increase the programme's reach and impact.

17. Moving the child-friendly movement forward entails focusing on the health and well-being of children in high-priority areas to reduce disparities. This task will require more resources than are currently available for the programme. The next country programme of cooperation with the Philippines will therefore need to tap new resources by working with other partners in focus areas, including the Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC), the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank as well as other United Nations agencies (especially through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, or UNDAF) and NGOs.

The country programme, 2005-2009

Summary budget table

	In thousands of United States dollars		
Programme	*Regular resources*	*Other resources*	*Total*
Communication	1 561	3 218	4 779
Local policy and institutional development	1 928	822	2 750
Health and nutrition	2 228	10 745	12 973
Education	1 545	5 957	7 502
Child protection	1 342	8 451	9 793
HIV/AIDS	1 076	1 918	2 994
Cross-sectoral costs	1 890	889	2 779
Total	**11 570**	**32 000**	**43 570**

Preparation process

18. Development of the country programme was based on the CCA and UNDAF. The Government, UNICEF and NGOs participated in an UNDAF meeting in October 2003, where UNDAF priority areas were agreed. Sectoral evaluations were conducted during the second half of 2003, and a study to assess the effectiveness of the child-friendly movement was completed in early 2004. Consultations were also held with major donors, AusAID and New Zealand Aid, and a dialogue developed with JBIC and ADB. A draft programme outline was discussed by the Government /UNICEF Executive Committee in early January 2004, following which the UNICEF regional office provided in-country support to finalize strategies.

19. Results from a 2002 meeting to develop a new vision were also incorporated into the draft programme outline, which was presented and discussed at a National Steering Committee meeting in February 2004. This meeting brought together senior Government officials, the UNICEF Regional Director and representatives from the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund. Children and youth participated in the development of a National Plan of Action for children and a Child Participation Framework plan, both of which were taken into account in developing the programme.

Goals, key results and strategies

20. The UNICEF-Philippines country programme of cooperation for 2005 to 2009 will aim to reduce the disparities among children in national and focus areas, as evidenced by major health, nutrition, education and protection indicators, by at least 50 per cent of their 2003 national levels. The programme will continue to promote the child-friendly movement in achieving measurable results for the most disadvantaged children. The programme will be implemented in the 19 focus provinces and 5 cities that participated in the previous programme (the provinces will not include Tawi Tawi).

21. Multi-year, integrated plans will target the worst areas of disparity. These will facilitate collaboration with other actors, including other United Nations agencies, and will assist the provinces in allocating counterpart funds. A major change in strategy will entail paying more attention to leveraging resources for children in focus cities and to working more closely with NGOs.

22. Interventions will cover six programme areas, all of which will mainstream issues of gender and develop HIV/AIDS interventions. The programme will aim to achieve these key results: the improved protection, health and well-being of children and women in focus areas; improved basic social services; more effective policies for children at local and national levels; strong communication for, and awareness of, children's rights; better achievement at school; and a renewed focus on preventing a major HIV/AIDS epidemic.

23. UNICEF regular resources will be used to sustain the child-friendly movement and to continue to build capacity for early childhood care and development among as many local governments, communities and households as possible. Other resources will be used to accelerate and expand the movement and to develop activities with NGOs. Without significant other resources, the programme is expected to achieve limited expansion and merely to sustain gains already made.

Relationship to national priorities and the UNDAF

24. The Early Childhood Care and Development Act and Child 21 (the national framework for plans, policies and programmes for children) are helping to guide the country programme development and implementation. The programme will continue to work with, and strengthen, the Council for the Welfare of Children to implement the Early Childhood Care and Development Act.

25. The UNDAF has been completed and these five priority areas identified: (a) macroeconomic stability and equitable development, (b) basic social services, (c) good governance, (d) environmental sustainability, and (e) conflict-prevention and peace-building. The UNICEF programme will participate in all five priority areas as well as other areas for collaboration indicated by the UNDAF. Development of the UNDAF created many opportunities for the United Nations agencies to work closely together and it greatly strengthened respective understanding of how each agency plans and works. The common country assessment (CCA) and UNDAF also enabled the United Nations agencies to work more closely with the Government and NGOs. Collaborative efforts will be developed through joint planning and monitoring exercises and joint field visits.

Relationship to international priorities

26. The programme emphasizes all priorities in the UNICEF medium-term strategic plan (MTSP) and will focus in particular on early childhood development. In education, a focus will be placed on improving quality, achievement and school retention. Attention will be given to the *madrassas* (faith-based schools) where girls are at a disadvantage. In HIV/AIDS, preventive action will form the core of efforts. The Health and Nutrition programme will sustain efforts in salt iodization to meet the 2005 goal. Immunization will also continue to be a priority, and UNICEF will assist the Government to obtain vaccines through reimbursable procurement to ensure uninterrupted deliveries. Child protection will focus on preventing trafficking, which is a regional priority, as well as improving the policy and judicial environment for children. As an overarching strategy, the programme will address the imperatives of the Millennium Declaration and Development Goals and the goals of *A World Fit for Children*.

Programme components

27. Six sectoral programmes will address children's rights and well-being within a rights based approach.

Communication

28. The programme will aim to promote the widest possible awareness and discussion of child rights through the child-friendly movement. The *ChildInfo*-based Knowledge Network Centres will be expanded to reach half of all provinces and cities. The News Network half-hour television programme written and directed by children will be expanded through an alliance developed by UNICEF with NGOs, broadcasters and child protection organizations. This programme is expected to broadcast information about child rights to at least 250,000 people 26 or more times per year. Another initiative, promoting communication for behaviour change, will produce at least 150 communication materials on health, education and child protection, with communities participating in message design and delivery. In

addition, the country programme will work with industry councils and associations, providing training and advocacy for journalists and other media professionals on developing child-friendly media and on improving compliance with standards developed for children's media. Continuous advocacy with the Government for child- rights based policies will emphasize the adoption and implementation of a comprehensive juvenile justice law. Partnerships with new broadcasters, the private sector, NGOs, journalists and faith-based organizations will be developed to promote children's rights as widely as possible.

Local policy and institutional development (LPID)

29. Efforts will go towards ensuring that an additional 8,500 *barangays* become child-friendly in order to achieve complete child-friendliness in focus areas. Efforts will continue to expand the child-friendly movement beyond focus areas, in order to ensure that children's rights are placed on the agenda at local and national levels. The aim is to expand the movement to an additional 41, or 70 per cent, of non-focus provinces and 77 additional cities in these provinces, all of which would adopt the 'four gifts for children' by 2009. The LPID will interact closely with local governments and the leagues of local government units, cities and municipalities to promote the four gifts and ensure their implementation by leveraging Government resources. Major partners in this effort will be the Council for the Welfare of Children, the Department of Interior and Local Government, the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) and the Regional Sub-committees for the Welfare of Children. The LPID will also promote and support emergency preparedness and child rights as part of local plans for children and help develop interventions to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS at the local government level. Closer collaboration will be pursued with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on governance and child rights issues, and with ADB, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Bank on complementary governance projects. Work on policy and institutional development regarding child labour will take place in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Health and nutrition

30. The aims are to achieve and sustain full immunization coverage of over 90 per cent; to achieve universal salt iodization by 2005, with salt utilization of 85 per cent; reduce under-nutrition in children by 30 per cent from 2003 levels; reduce the maternal mortality ratio from the current level of 200 and reduce disparities relating to infant and under-five as well as maternal mortality. The programme will continue to support the national immunization programme, surveillance of polio eradication, measles elimination by 2008 and the elimination of maternal and neonatal tetanus. In the achievement of national health goals, priority will be given to reducing disparities, improving the care provided by families and communities and encouraging the adoption of health-promoting behaviours. More attention will be paid to pre-pregnancy, pregnancy and the lactation period for women, and to the health and well-being of children under three. The programme will also tackle under-nutrition in women of child-bearing age, iron-deficiency anaemia for children and women, and stunting and low birth weight. Strong advocacy for improved emergency obstetric care will be undertaken and new models developed for community-based nutrition support. A programme will be introduced of de-worming

linked to school hygiene and sanitation and to vitamin A supplementation. Childhood injuries will receive attention in new studies to be completed. Regarding emergencies, preparedness for health and nutrition support will be pursued with local authorities and NGOs. On HIV/AIDS, the focus will be on injection safety, counselling for adolescent girls and women, the safety of the blood supply and the prevention of parent-to-child transmission. Collaboration will be strengthened with the United Nations Population Fund for adolescent and maternal health, with the World Health Organization (WHO) on immunization and other health issues, and with UNAIDS. Other health-sector partners include Helen Keller International for vitamin A supplementation, USAID for salt iodization and food fortification, and the World Bank for a programme on safe motherhood.

Education

31. In pursuit of Education for All goals, the programme will help raise early childhood development for children three to five years old, reverse the drop in enrolment rates, sustain and enhance the gains made in raising retention rates, improve student achievement and sustain the high rates of girls' enrolment and retention. The programme will popularize the child-friendly school system and student tracking system in focus areas and will support expansion to new areas and to the secondary level. Intensive training for teachers and school heads will be provided and will include orientation for parent-teacher associations and school boards. Within the Early Childhood Care and Development law framework, the programme will continue to support the expansion of day-care centres. Emphasis will be placed on offering more home and community-based early childhood centres. Monitoring and evaluation systems will be strengthened to improve education and parent and community participation. The programme will also work closely with the Council for the Welfare of Children and the Department of Education in enriching the curriculum. To address the wide disparities that characterize access and achievement rates, especially in the Mindanao region, the programme will assist in strengthening the madrassa education and alternative-delivery systems. Activities will address the education needs of children affected by emergencies and helping to promote peace education. Complementarity will be sought with the education projects supported by AusAID and the World Bank/JBIC and with secondary education efforts supported by ADB and JBIC.

Child protection

32. Emphasis will be placed on several initiatives: establishing effective monitoring and feedback mechanisms for combating child-trafficking and sexual exploitation of children; improved policies for children in conflict with the law; creation of an additional 10,000 actively functioning *barangay* councils for the protection of children; and improved psychosocial care for victims of exploitation and abuse. In the multi-partner Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration strategy, particularly for Mindanao, UNICEF will develop and lead actions to protect children caught up in armed conflict. Partnerships will be strengthened with other United Nations agencies such as ILO and UNDP and also with NGOs. Strengthened project models will combine preventive and early interventions with actions for rescue, recovery and reintegration, while promoting an improved legal protection and justice system for children. The passage of a comprehensive law on juvenile justice will be supported, and the programme will provide training and

equipment for video-conferencing facilities in approximately 45 family courts, which is half of the total. Approximately 15,000 at-risk children will be provided with education and vocational skills, and parents will be oriented in more effective parenting skills.

33. Key messages to promote a protective environment for children and young people at risk will be developed, with a focus on strengthening policy, capacity and partnerships. Services for psychosocial help and case management will be expanded through the training of approximately 6,000 field workers in life skills, including those aimed at promoting protection against HIV infection. Alternative family-care options for children without primary caregivers will be also piloted. Networking and alliances with local councils for the protection of children, faith-based organizations, NGOs, civil society organizations and relevant private sector partners will be strengthened. The National Council for the Welfare of Children and its regional sub-committees will monitor child protection structures and systems. Synergies will be pursued with ADB, ILO, Save the Children Fund-United Kingdom, Child Hope, Asia Acts, and World Vision as well as with major national NGOs, including the Educational Research and Development Assistance Foundation, the National Council for Social Development, and End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes (ECPAT) in the Philippines.

HIV/AIDS

34. The programme will focus on advocacy for prevention of an escalation of HIV/AIDS. The latest Youth and Adult Fertility study indicates that there exist behaviour patterns and conditions that could lead to a wide-scale epidemic. The programme will, therefore, address high-risk behaviour and the relatively low level of concern about HIV/AIDS at the national level. National campaigns to raise awareness about the disease will also focus on reaching communities, and especially adolescents, who will be encouraged to participate in prevention programmes. Rights-based actions will build on the child-friendly movement and its strong linkages with local government. Partnerships will be strengthened with concerned United Nations agencies, the Philippine National AIDS Council and the Department of Education. The programme will fully participate in multi-agency working groups, collaborating with them and others to improve monitoring and evaluation systems. The good relations of UNICEF with the private sector will be drawn on to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS and to strengthen collaboration with NGOs.

Cross-sectoral costs

35. These costs include support costs for supply and logistics operations and programme monitoring and evaluation functions. Security awareness and communication equipment will also be funded from this allocation. In addition, some funds will be retained to allow for rapid response in natural disasters and other emergencies.

Major partnerships

36. The Philippines UNDAF presents opportunities for strengthening partnerships within the United Nations system. Collaboration will continue with WHO on developing policies and technical standards in immunization and other areas.

Cooperation will be also be pursued with ADB, the World Bank and the JBIC, who fund large programmes. The child protection programme will harmonize with the ILO programme on elimination of the worst forms of child labour. Partnerships with NGOs will be strengthened to address, in particular, challenges related to child protection.

37. Fund-raising will entail strengthening partnerships with AusAID and other donors for programme development and field-level monitoring. Partnerships with the private sector will be continued for local fund-raising, especially for emerging issues such as prevention of child injury and improved school sanitation.

Monitoring, evaluation and programme management

38. The NEDA will coordinate the country programme through a National Steering Committee and an Executive Committee that includes the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and UNICEF. The CWC will continue to monitor and coordinate the child-friendly movement. The National Steering Committee will meet twice annually and the Executive Committee will meet quarterly.

39. In programme monitoring, UNICEF will work with CWC and NEDA to improve systems developed in the previous programme. The NEDA regional offices will provide technical support to the focus provinces and will provide monitoring data. Goals-monitoring will use the *ChildInfo* knowledge centres. UNICEF will support surveys and other appropriate means to collect and analyse data on the situation of children, and this element of monitoring will be handled by the LPID. The database established in the knowledge centres will be updated regularly and will be used to prepare annual provincial and city reports on the situation of children and women.

40. Within UNICEF, the country management team will draw on support from sector staff and the three "island teams" engaged in inter-sectoral collaboration. Through the continued promotion of teamwork, UNICEF will aim to improve implementation and financial monitoring of the country programme to ensure impact, regular reporting and financial efficiency.